

Judge grounds National Day of Prayer

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RICHMOND, Va. (Special)

— The International Mission
Board (IMB) of the Southern Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention will con-duct a missionary appoint-ment service for 21 of Southern Baptists' newest international missionaries at 6:30 p.m. on May 6 at First Church, Jackson. The church and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will serve as hosts. The service will feaas hosts. The service will fea-ture testimonies from the new missionaries and a charge from native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, IMB president. It will be Rankin's final appointment service as IMB president; he has announced his plans to retire in July and return to Mississippi.

MADISON, Wis. (BP) — A federal judge ruled April 15 that a statute that sets a day for the National Day of Prayer is uncon-

stitutional, amounting to a governmental call for religious action.
The ruling, by U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb in Wisconsin, will not affect the 59th annual observance of the National

annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 6, because the ruling will not take effect until all appeals are exhausted.

"This is an egregious and revealing decision," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said. "It shows the brooding hostility toward religion that exists at some levels of federal, state and local government in this country.

and local government in this country.

"I am confident that this wrongheaded and hostile decision will be overturned at the appellate and Supreme Court level.

the appellate and Supreme Court level. Every one of our founding fathers would be astounded at the wrong-headedness of this decision," Land said.

The case began in 2008 when the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a Madison-based group of atheists and agnostics, filed a lawsuit against the federal government claiming that the day of prayer violates the separation of church and state.

Originally the case was against U.S. President George W. Bush but was changed to reflect Barack H. Obama's succession to the presidency in 2008, and

succession to the presidency in 2008, and now the Obama administration must appeal the decision within 60 days in order for the tradition to continue.

order for the tradition to continue.

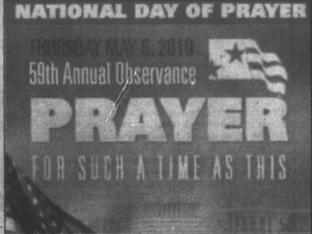
In 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed into law a joint resolution of Congress to set aside an annual National Day of Prayer, and Congress amended the law in 1988 to establish a more particular date. The law reads, "The president shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals."

The National Day of Prayer Task Force, in a news release April 15, noted that the tradition of designating an official day of prayer actually began with the Continental Congress in 1775, after which President Washington issued a National

President Washington issued a National Day of Thanksgiving Proclamation. Ever since, the task force said, American

presidents have made similar proclamations and "appeals to the Almighty." Historically, all 50 governors, along with presidents, have issued proclamations in honor of the National Day of Prayer.

Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, said the National Day of Prayer creates hostility toward atheists and questions their patriotism. "Our government is saying that we are not good Americans because we don't pray," she said, according to The Tennessean newspaper in Nashville.



In a 66-page decision Thursday, Crabb, who was appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, said the National Day of Prayer "serves no purpose but to encourage a religious exercise, making it difficult for a reasonable observer to see the statute as anything other than a religious endorsement."

"No one can doubt the important role in the contract of th

"No one can doubt the important role that prayer plays in the spiritual life of a believer," Crabb said, but "recognizing the importance of prayer to many people does not mean that the government may enact a statute in support of it, any more than the government may encourage citizens to fast during the month of Ramadan, attend

lodge or practice rune magic."

Crabb cited former U.S. Supreme
Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's
remarks in another case: "Government remarks in another case: "Government cannot endorse the religious practices and beliefs of some citizens without sending a clear message to non-adherents that they are outsiders or less than full mem-

bers of the political community.

The Freedom From Religion The Freedom From Religion Foundation, though elated over the judge's ruling, expressed disappointment with the Obama administration for what transpired immediately after the decision. "A Twitter from the White House went out Thursday afternoon soon after the decision was announced: 'As he did last year, President Ohama intends to recognize a

sion was announced: 'As he did last year, President Obama intends to recognize a National Day of Prayer.' The Twitter links to the 2009 presidential NDP proclamation," the foundation said in a news release. Gaylor said, "President Obama is a constitutional scholar, and knows the issues at stake. He couldn't possibly have read the 66-page historic ruling by Judge Crabb at the time of this tweet."

Though he issued a prayer proclama-

Though he issued a prayer proclamation last year, Obama did not hold any public events at the White House as previous presidents, including George W. Bush, have done.

Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said a small group of dissenters should not be allowed to deprive the entire population of a time-honored tradition.

William to the second

"Since the days of our Founding Fathers, the government has protected and encouraged public prayer and other expressions of dependence on the Almighty," Dobson said. "This is a concerted effort by a small but determined number of people who have tried to prohibit all references to the Creator in the public square, whether it he the Ten Commandments the it be the Ten Commandments, the Pledge of Allegiance, or the simple act

Pledge of Allegiance, or the simple act of corporate prayer — this is unconscionable for a free society."

Earlier Dobson was dismissed from the lawsuit, having originally been one of the defendants. "The lawsuit against Mrs. Dobson was based on the ridiculous argument that a private citizen can violate the law by praying, and it is just another example of one radical organization's allergic reaction to anything involving God," said Joel Oster, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, which advocated for Dobson.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation

The Freedom From Religion Foundation "is showcasing to America that its true agenda is not to just silence the government but private citizens as well," Oster said in March.

Though it excused Dobson from the case, the court allowed the FFRF to continue its challenge of the federal statute.

The prayer day task force and Alliance.

The prayer day task force and Alliance Defense Fund attorneys are urging Obama to appeal Crabb's decision, and they're asking people to contact the White House to express

people to contact the White House to expless support of the National Day of Prayer.

"Long term, this type of opinion, if not corrected on appeal, will continue the erosion of our religious heritage and freedom," the task force said. "It allows a handful of disgruntled." people to use the courts to restrict the genuine constitutional rights enjoyed by the majority of Americans merely because those few peo-

ple claim to be 'offended.'
"While the National Day of Prayer Task "While the National Day of Prayer Task
Force will be able to promote a national
day of prayer on its own, government
acknowledgement of that day is in jeopardy if this opinion is allowed to stand,"
the committee, which develops a theme
and promotes the day each year, said.

Concerned citizens can sign a petition
in support of the National Day of Prayer
that will be sent to Obama by visiting
savethendon ore.

that will be sent to Obama by visiting savethendop.org.

The American Center for Law and Justice represented itself and 31 members of Congress in a friend-of-the-court brief defending the National Day of Prayer in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Jay Sekulow, ACLJ's chief coursel, said he is confident the decision will be overturned.

"This is the first step in what could be a lengthy legal process that ultimately puts this issue before the Supreme Court," Sekulow said. "This issue could very well be decided by the next appointee to the high court. An issue like this underscores the importance of why it's so critical for the nominee to answer it's so critical for the nominee to answer direct questions about their judicial philosophy, how they view the role of judges, and their view of the rule of law."

Land Harris & British Harris Her

## Pro-lifers note death of staunch defender

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP and local reports) — The burial of Poland's President Lech Kaczynski in Krakow on April 18 was met by mourning not only among Polish citizens and international diplomats but also within the international

pro-life movement.

Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 other Polish political and business leaders were killed in a plane crash on April 10. The group was en route to a ceremony commemorating the Katyn Forest massacre 70 years earlier in which Soviet secret police killed more than 20,000 officers and civic leaders of Poland who had been captured in the early days of World War II and taken into western Russia.

Kaczynski, a Roman Catholic, was "an outstanding leader for pro-life, pro-marriage, and pro-family issues in Europe," said Janice Shaw Crouse of Concerned Women for America. "He stood strong for Judeo-Christian values in the face of intense opposition from European Union leaders," she said after the crash.

R. Philip Roberts, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was in Poland at the time of the air tragedy and con-curred that Kaczynski was "clearly 100% pro-life."

"It was very obvious in everything he did, said, and fought for that he maintained that position," Roberts told Baptist Press. "He was what many politicians would call 'on the right' side in his political positions, and what some

I think he was 'right on' in terms of his own personal moral values, and what he wanted to see Poland do as a nation.

\_Kaczynski also was "suspicious of the moral social agenda of the European Union," Roberts said, referring to the left-leaning league of 27 European which countries includes Poland.

"While Poland moved in the direction of joining the European Union, he [Kaczynski] was also concerned about the possibility of the devolution of the moral values for the country if they went along with everything the European Union wanted done," Roberts said.

Concerning Poland's break from commu-nism through the 1980s Solidarity movement, Roberts noted that Kaczynski "was from the beginning. He

taught law at the University of Gdansk where the Solidarity movement began. He was "a" consultant with Lech Walesa, and fought tenaciously for the rights of the Solidarity movement and for the eventual introduction of democracy into the life of Poland."



GONE, NOT FORGOTTEN - As Poles young and old mourned the loss their president Lech Kaczynski in an April 10 airplane crash in Russia, Kaczynski "was people within the pro-life movement were mourn-involved in Solkdarity ing the loss of a strong ally in Europe. (BP photo)

Roberts described Kaczynski as "a very staunch, rigorous tra-ditional Roman Catholic. That was his tradition, where he stood, and that's where his moral values were. I had no personal awareness that, as

would understand it as Baptists,

Lord and Savior, although I'm sure he would argue and maintain that he did.

"The difficulty there is that in the Catholic understanding of salvation, you can't really have assurance of salvation. You have to be dependent on the life of the church and your participation in the sacraments in order to provide that for you."
Roberts also described

Kaczynski as "a strong family man. He and his wife had a very good relationship. Over the past weekend, they showed pictures of him and his wife that portrayed his obvious com-mitment to her.

"He was a good father. They had one daughter, and obviously she was quite distraught by his death. He and his brother [Jaroslaw, a former prime minister of Poland] were very close as well. They were identical twins who were born about 45 minutes apart. They lived most of their lives in close cooperation togeth-er and held similar values."

According to news reports, the Speaker of the lower house of the Polish Parliament will succeed Kaczynski as president until an election can be scheduled to choose a permanent successor.

Jesus Christ Requests the Honor of Your Presence in Heaven!

SISSIPP

THE SECOND

FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND **RIGHT Now!** 

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on. I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## hinese lawyer presented with So. Baptist liberty award

WASHINGTON (BP) Fan Yafeng, a Chinese human rights lawyer and religious liberty advocate, has received the 2009 John Leland Religious Liberty Award for his defense of persecuted Christians in China. The John Leland Religious

Liberty Award, presented by the Ethics and Religiouis Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, is given each year to an individual who has significantly aided the cause

of religious liberty.
Leland, an 18th-century
Baptist preacher and evangelist, was instrumental in the guarantee of religious liberty as secured in the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Richard Land, president of Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, presented the award during an April 14 cer-emony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Bob Fu, president of ChinaAid Association, accepted the award on Fan's behalf. Fan, who is prohibited from leaving China, was able to join the presentation by a live video feed. He asked for prayer for a "strong fairh" and prayer that a "greater revival will happen for China and for ... particularly human rights defenders in China so that we can better prepare for that we can better prepare for the revival to come and to glorify the name of the Lord."

Land called Fan a "hero of the faith," noting he is a leading advocate for constitutiondemocracy who, at the risk of imprisonment and physical abuse, works with other religious liberty lawyers in appealing for human rights for Chinese citizens.

Among his many accom-lishments, Fan founded the Chinese Civil Rights Defenders league and cofounded the Chinese Christian Rights Defense Lawyers Association. He also pastors a house church in Beijing where he provides Christian mentorship to young attorneys.

Fan was reportedly dismissed from his position at the China Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing late last year for "political reasons." During U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to China in November Fan and other Chinese rights activists were detained by police when they gathered near the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. "Recognizing Dr. Fan with

this award puts a spotlight on our suffering Christian broth-ers and sisters in China," Land said. "We hope and pray that recognizing Dr. Fan with this religious liberty award reminds them that they are not forgotten or alone," he said.

The recognition of Fan serves also to remind the Chinese governmental authorities that millions of concerned Christians around the world are watching how they treat our Chinese Christian brothers and sisters," Land added. "No one is fit to be a master,

and no one deserves to be a slave," Land said, citing the second inaugural address of former U.S. President George W. Bush, himself a previous recipient of the religious liberty award.

#### Looking back

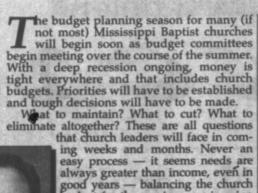
Mississippi Baptist BSU students commission 120 of their own as summer missionaries, and hear a challenge from newly-elected governor Ronnie Musgrove during the annual Leadership Training Conference Apr. 7 – 9 at Gulfshore Assembly near Pass Christian.

A crowd of over 500 students, parents, and friends are on hand to see 67 student summer missionaries commissioned at Gulfshore Assembly during the annual Leadership Training Conference. They also hear MBCB executive director-treasurer Bill Causey and church planter Dottie Williamson.

Special of Gulfshore Assembly one week prior to its official opening reach \$93,543.54, approaching the goal of \$100,000. The facility will host the annual Pastors and Missionaries Assembly as its first event.



# NOTEBOOK



always greater than income, even in good years — balancing the church budget for the coming year is going to be a real challenge for many (if not most) Mississippi Baptist churches.

As budget deliberations proceed

As budget deliberations proceed apace, there is one item in every church budget that should be protected from cuts at all costs: the Cooperative Program. It's just too important to all of us, and to a lost world in need of the Gospel.

For far too many Mississippi Baptists — and Southern Baptists in general — the Cooperative Program is the transparent, little-understood mechanism for funding virtually every activity undertaken on the state and national convention levels.

Begun in the 1920s, the Cooperative Program ensures

Perkins Jr.

Begun in the 1920s, the Cooperative Program ensures that each Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist activity receives a share of the funding pie by pooling the gifts made by church members throughout the state and the national conventions.

Without the Cooperative Program, most of these activities would wither and die. Some would survive, but just barely, by returning to the pre-Cooperative Program days of "society" funding where supporters of every needy cause would individually approach every church for a contribution to their cause.

If your church's pastor, music minister, and other staffers received quality educations at Southern Baptist seminaries, you can thank the Cooperative Program for helping maintain the campus, compensate faculty, and keep expenses as low as possible in many other ways.



The church budget season

If you pray daily for the many thousands of full-time missionaries commissioned by the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, you can thank the Cooperative Program for helping in the administration of those agencies, which frees up gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions to be spent on mission fields.

Without the Cooperative Program, there would likely be no salvation testimonies.

Without the Cooperative Program, there would likely be no salvation testimonies from Camp Garaywa, Mississippi Baptists' Girls in Action campgroup in Clinton; or Central Hills Retreat, Mississippi Baptists' Royal 'Ambassador campground outside Kosciusko. Bible Drills wouldn't happen. Our state's Baptist universities would be hobbled. All are supported by the Cooperative Program.

There would be no Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit to respond in the name of Jesus whenever crisis grips a community — or whole countries like Indonesia and Haiti. There would be no church planting effort in the burgeoning Hispanic community in the state.

Indonesia and Haiti. There would be no church planting effort in the burgeoning Hispanic community in the state.

Local ministries are vitally important and should be supported, but there's also a whole big world out there waiting to hear about Jesus Christ. Apparently following the poor example of churches pastored by some of our most notable national convention "leaders," however, a disturbing number of Mississippi Baptist churches are choosing to give a trivial percentage to the Cooperative Program.

That's a shame, because funding 54 church members on a two-week mission trip to Mexico is not the same as funding 5,400 International Mission Board missionaries around the world. Funding ten youth from the church to help the poor for a week in another state is not the same as funding 10,000 World Changers all across the country — and now internationally.

The Cooperative Program is simply too important to minimize. Too much is at stake, and too little time is left before our Savior returns. It's not broke. It doesn't need fixing. It does need undying, sacrificial support.

need undying, sacrificial support.

Just a little food for thought during this church budget season.

William H. Perkins Jr.

William H.

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## for more than 20 years I have been researching and study-ing churches, primarily those in North America. I had the

joy of serving as senior pastor in four churches where God blessed with evangelistic growth. I have written more than 20 books about the church in America.

about the church in America.

I am not giving you my credentials to impress you, but simply to share that my life's passion has been leading and learning about evangelistic churches. At this point in my life and ministry, however, I realize that I have not given sufficient attention to one of the primary characteristics of evangelistic churches.

It is so obvious Indeed it is

evangelistic churches.

It is so obvious. Indeed it is so clear that I am surprised at my neglect of this factor. Stated simply, the evangelistic churches that I have researched for the past 20 years have one or more highly evangelistic Christians.

I know that the previous statement is no great revelation. It is almost stating the obvious but, if it is reality, why are we not hearing more about these Christians who seem to have a passion for evangelism? Why are we not doing a better job of telling their stories?

Seven characteristics It is inevitable that, when we do research on evangelistic churches; we learn about one or more members in the church

#### GUEST OPINION:



## Becoming more evangelistic

By Thom S. Rainer, president LifeWay Christian Resources Nashville

who, to use the book title by Charles H. Spurgeon, embody the traits of The Soul Winner.

the traits of The Soul Winner. Oftentimes one of those members is the pastor, but we have also seen many laypersons who are themselves soul winners.

In our interviews with these people, or with those who tell us about the soul winners, we began to discern some clear patterns. We called those patterns the seven characteristics of highly evangelistic Christians:

• They are people of prayer. They realize that only God can convict and convert, and they are totally dependent upon Him

convict and convert, and they are totally dependent upon Him in prayer. Most of the highly evangelistic Christians spend at least an hour in prayer each day.

They have a theology that compels them to evangelize. They believe in the urgency of the Gospel message. They believe that Christ is the only

way of salvation. They believe that anyone without Christ is doomed for a literal hell.

• They are people who spend time in the Word. The more time they spend in the Bible, the more likely they are to see the lostness of humanity and the love of God in Christ to save these who are lest. save those who are lost.

save those who are lost.

• They are compassionate people. Their hearts break for those who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They have learned to love the world by becoming more like Christ who has the greatest love for the world.

• They love the communities where God has placed them. They are immersed in the culture because they desire for the light of Christ to shine through them in their communities.

them in their communities.

They are intentional about evangelism. They pray for

opportunities to share the Gospel. They look for those opportunities. And they see many so-called casual encounters as appointments set by God.

• They are accountable to someone for their evangelistic activities. They know that many good activities can replace Great Commission activities if they are not careful. Good can replace the best. So they make certain that someone holds them accountable each week, either formalable each week, either formally or informally, for their evangelistic efforts.

Instruments of God

The secret of evangelistic churches is really no secret at all. Ultimately, evangelistic churches see more persons become Christians through the passionate efforts of highly evangelistic Christians. More than any programs, more than any church events, more than anything else, we are the instruments God has chosen to

Sometimes we ask the question, "What is my church doing to become more evangelistic?" The better question is, "What

am I doing to become more evangelistic?"

Charles H. Spurgeon was right. We need more soul winners. We need more highly evangelistic Christians.

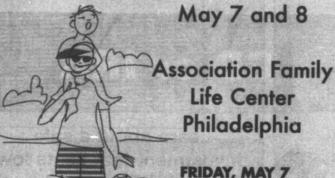


What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

April 22, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Family Celebration



6:30 P.M. Single Celebration Rally (Free Supper) Guest Speaker and Comedian Robert Day

SATURDAY, MAY 8 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

- Conferences on parenting, marriage, and finances
- · Speakers, entertainment, music, children's activities, coffee house for the students . Food and fun for the entire family

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Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

## State Literacy Conference

July 15-17, 2010 Morrison Heights BC Clinton

Contact: Paula Smith, WMU 601-292-3336 1-800-748-1651 psmith@mbcb.org



ITERACY MISSIONS



#### LONGVIEW HEIGHTS BC **OLIVE BRANCH**

4501 Goodman Road APRIL 30 - MAY 1

Spirit & Truth is a weekend conference built on the foundational roles that prayer, Bible interpretation, and Spirit-filled living play in bringing personal transformation. Jesus reminds us in John 4:23 that ... "true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth."

You're invited to explore these ideas and renew your relationship with Christ on April 30 & May 1, 2010, at Longview Heights Baptist Church in Olive Branch.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE



Greg Heisler, Assoc. Chair of Preaching Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jim Shaddix, Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado



Joel Engle, Senior Pastor The Exchange Church, Keller, Texas

7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY SCHEDULE 7-8:30 p.m. **Prayer Life** for Spiritual Leaders



Claude King Discipleship Specialist LifeWay Christian Resources

8:00

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Mission Strategy, David Michel Associate Executive Director PO Box 530 Jackson, Mississippi 39205 601.292.3231 800.748.1651, ext. 231 E-mail: dmichel@mbcb.org

or Imarler@mbcb.org

Dismiss

**Prayer Time** 

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9:00 **Opening Words** 9:05 Music 9:10 Session 1 - Greg Heisler 10:00 Sesson 2 - Jim Shaddix 11:00 11:10 Music 11:15 Session 3 - Jim Shaddix noon Snack Lunch 12:30 Intro 12:35 Music 12:40 Session 4 - Joel Engle 1:30 Session 5 - Joel Engle 1:50 Break 2:00 Session 6 - Greg Heisler

3:30-5:00 Post Conference

**Dismiss** 

Please call X-tended Missions Network 662.429.5033 for meal count and conference information **COME EVEN IF YOU DON'T CALL!** 

3:00

OWZ XAN UCPNE WO
EBK BE MNCXA; FHX
XAN PBOX WO PWM BE
NXNZKCS SBON
XAZWHPA DNEHE
LAZBEX WHZ SWZM.
ZWGCKE EBY: XUNKXTXAZNN

Clue: Y = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the juzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Eight: Eleven.

#### JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Several area churches are sponsoring Awaken 2010, May 8, 5 p.m., at the Davis Event Center, Fulton. The event is an evening of worship and praise for all of North Mississippi with special guests Shane & Shane, The Glorious Unseen, Brenton Brown, and Gary Permenter. All tickets are reserved and can be purchased in advance at www.awakenms.com. In Fulton tickets will be available at An Affair to Remember, (662) 862-9026, First Church (662) 862-3207, and Bethel Church (662) 862-3207, and Bethel Church (662) 862-3207 and Bethel Church (662) 862-3207, and Bethel Church (662) 862-3

2. Forest Church, Forest, is hosting Beth Moore via satellite Apr. 24, 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Light breakfast provided. Tickets, \$30. For more information, visit www.forestbaptistchurch.c om or call (601) 469-2206.

#### DILEMMA

In days gone by, I have written so many articles about squirrels, ducks, hawks, and buzzards that I hesitate to tell you about an experience I recently had with a deer. While I am not a naturalist and do not spend all of my time wandering in the woods, I see some strange and amazing things happen in God's wonderful creation. There are not many mornings when I take an early walk that I do not see deer, but on this particular morning there were two beautiful does bouncing along the landscape in front of this house. A strong high, iron fence encircles the home and the land that surrounds it. When I saw the two deer, I wondered how they got inside and how they would get out. Soon after I saw them, they saw me and as deer often do they somewhat panicked and took off running away from me. I saw them running down toward the corner of the tence and then one of the deer got through the fence. I do not know how but she crossed the road and I watched her as she went off into the woods in another direction. When I got on down the road, I saw the other deer that had tried to run through the iron fence. Actually, it had made it through the fence — halfway. There it was with its head and front shoulders on one side of the fence and its back legs and hips on the other side unable to get through the small opening in the iron bars. You can imagine the panic that was taking place. The deer was prancing and struggling, lunging forward trying to get through the fence to no avail. It was a deer's dilemma of major proportions and a dilemma from which we can learn some major

lessons about life.

The first thing that I was reminded of was the fact that oftentimes you try to help and are unable to help. I talked to the little deer and tried to help calm her down. I told her that I was not going to bother her and that I just wanted to try to help her get loose. It did not seem to make her feel any better at all. In fact, in the moments that she would calm down she looked at me so pitifully like, "Mister, can't you do something?" I told her I was trying but it did not seem to help. I was bewildered as to what to do. So often, I have been in that place in life and ministry. No doubt, you have experienced that. Maybe it is a family that has made one wrong decision after another. They have lived life according to wrong priorities. They have restrained their kids at the wrong times and not disciplined them at other times. The shape of the family and the actions of the children are more and more distinct, uncontrollable, and at times detrimental. Eventually, they come to a place where things just totally unravel and they look at you like, "Can't you do something about this?" You wish that you could but find that you are unable to make



much difference. They are caught in a dilemma in life, jumping around, lunging forward with no success, and they want you to make a difference.

you to make a difference.
You may know of other occasions in a life or in a family when things got bad and they were in a squeeze but they managed to get through it and, like the first little deer, run away for another day. They might get so stuck and their lives become so mixed up and convoluted that there is nothing that you can say or do to extricate them from the consequences of wrong and oftentimes sinful decisions.

A second lesson I learned from that little deer, or at least I was reminded, is sometimes all of us get halfway in and halfway out. Seemingly, we cannot go either way. It is the kind of mistake that drivers often make when they try to get across a flooded road. They venture on out into the water to the point that their engine dies, they cannot go through, and they cannot go through. On a sad and serious note, it is the kind of feeling that we all have had when we venture into sin and suddenly find ourselves trapped in the middle of the wrong. There is no way to correct it. As I looked into the face of that little deer, I thought that her expression was much like the expression that many of us have had. She looked at me with a look that said, "I'm in a mess! Can you help me?" I wanted to, but I was not able. I have even looked at others and looked at miy own predicament and have not been able to either get in or get out. I was just stuck!

It is at that point that the Good News of heaven comes to our ears. The announcement that came from heaven saying, "He shall be called Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins." He can do what we cannot do on our own and what no brilliant scholar, gifted counselor, or passionate caregiver can do but would love to do. When all of them have failed and we are stuck in our sinful condition, Jesus comes. He can help. He can save. He can deliver us.

My final thought from the deer dilemma was to stay calm and stay confident. There is help on the way, and you can get out of it. I did notify the landowner who in turned notified some people who knew what to do. They came and set this little deer free.

I can remember as if it was yesterday, though I could not describe it then and still cannot describe it today. It was the feeling of freedom from the burden of sin, the guilt and pain of lostness, of trusting Jesus, and that sudden incredible release from all of that to set me free. You may know of someone today who is burdened down and almost broken in a dilemma from which Jesus alone can set them free. They need Him — and they need someone like you who cares enough to help them.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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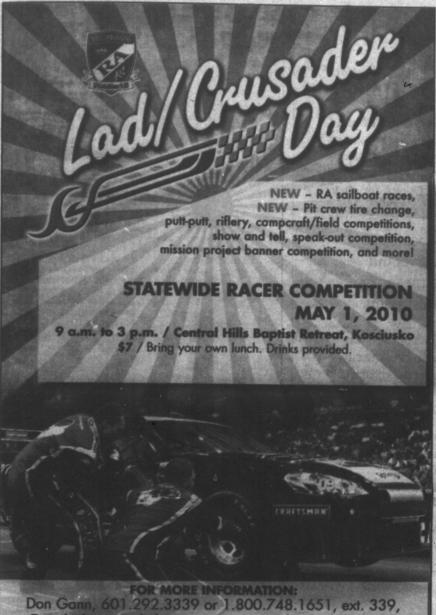
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Baptist seminary. For more information about the MBF Scholarship Ministry, please visit our Web site, www.msbaptistfoundation.org. Scholarship applications for the 2010-2011 academic year are available on our Web site. Completed applications must be received in the MBF office by April 30.





FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Don Gann, 601.292.3339 or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 339, or E-mail: dgann@mbcb.org or Deanna Vail, 601.292.3335 or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 335, E-mail: dvail@mbcb.org





July 12 - 16, 2010 Mississippi College, Clinton

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# pen to churches and campers whether they have done Bible Drill before or not. This camp is designed for church groups to come and stay together. Each church group must have an adult male sponsor for every 5 boys (or portion thereof) and an adult female sponsor for every 5 girls

(or portion thereof)

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#### July 24, 2010 Family Missions Day

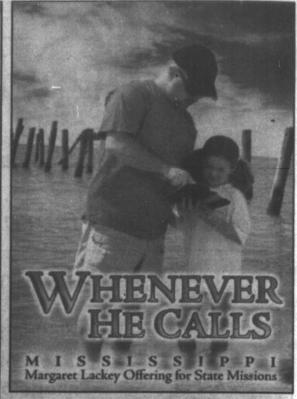
"Train up your child" by Example.Build Togetherness by "building together." Involve your children, ages 6 and up, in a whole day of doing for others!

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Monday, May 3, FBC, 300 South Jackson St., Crystal Springs Tuesday, May 4, FBC, 106 East Lampkin St., Starkville

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### REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Mathiston: Revival, Apr. 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; JR Eaton, speaker.
- Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle: Revival, May 2-5; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Keith M. Thompson, pastor.
- Corinth Church, Magee: 100th anniversary and homecoming, May 2; homecoming,



- rededication of building, 10:30 a.m. - noon; open house, 2-4 p.m.
- Parkway Church, Houston: Revival, May 2 - 5; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dan Robertson, speaker; Ray Walker, music; Randy Rinehart, pastor.
- Grove Church, Simpson Association: Homecoming and 106th anniversary, Apr. 25; wor-ship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Andy Boles, speaker.
- Center Terrace Church, Canton: Revival, Apr. 25 -28; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie South, speaker;

Tim Drane, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

- Crowder Church, Crowder: Homecoming, Apr. 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Ben James, speaker; Dave Tribble, music; Larry Kilgore, pastor.
- First Church, Runnelstown: Revival, Apr. 25 - 30; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, Jim Futral, and Fred Luter, speakers; Kent Miller, music.



Ninth Annual Gulf Coast Baptist Association Leadership Conference



**Dr. Michael Sharp** Professor of Worship NOBTS



Dr. Argile Smith or Pastor **FBC Biloxi** 

Engaging The Congregation In Corporate Worship

May 4, 2010 9:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M. First Baptist Church of Biloxi

Learn a fresh appreciation for worship as a meeting with God, a holy gathering. Receive a renewed desire to guide God's people to express their worship.

Registration \$20 if postmarked on or before April 23, 2010. Registration \$30 if postmarked on or after April 24, 2010. Registration includes meal and copy of Holy Gatherings.

> Register by contacting GCBA office at P.O. Box 2369 • Gulfport, MS 39505 228-832-4311 • lkgcba@cableone.net

Registration is complete on receipt of your funds.

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CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN McComb, MS is seeking a Minister of Music/Worship Leader. Traditional and blended services. Resumes may be sent to 719 3rd Street, McComb, MS 39648; fax: 601-684-1642; email:sfcammack@bellsouth.net. Phone: 601-684-1577.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH IN Lincoln County is seeking a P/T Youth Minister. Send resumes to: New Sight Baptist Church, 629 Forest Trail, Brookhaven, Ms., 39601 or email newsightbc@cableone.net.

#### BIBLE DRILLS

- First Church, Philadelphia, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Madison Alford, Casey Hight, Courtney Smith, Andrew Carlyle, Callie Prince, Emma Grace Carlyle, Calvin Prince, Zoie Henson, Katelyn Durant, Amelia Henson, Matthew Smith, and Sam Loper.
- Trudie Weeks, Yale Street Church and associational Bible drill leader for Mid-Delta Association, was honored for 35 years of service in Bible drills. She is shown with AMD Tommy Williamson.
- Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, children's drill, are Rica Robertson and Brynn Latham; youth drill, Arey Wilson and Paul Vaughan.
- Drew Church, Mid-Delta Association, hosted the associational Bible drills. Shown are the participants.



1. First Church, Philadelphia



2. Weeks and Williamson



3. Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine



4. Mid-Delta Association

Visit us online at www.mbcb.org. to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

## Pray this day for ...

## April 23 - May 6, 2010

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"O IORO, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."

Psalm 8:1

Pray for the Preschool/ Children's Ministry Retreat, 26-27, Garaywa. Pray that God will give workers His heart and ideas to teach children. Pray for God to bring more children, all over the USA, into these programs to bring children to Him in their early years. [SS]

Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering (WMU Emphasis)

Senior Adult Sunday (D&FM Emphasis)

Christian Home Week (D&FM Emphasis) Continue to pray for the relief efforts of Southern Baptists in Halti. The work there will continue for a long time to come. Pray that the Haltians will see the love of Christ through these volunteers.

Pray for: [1] Pastor/Sunday School Director Conference, FBC, Crystal Springs (SS); [2] Pray that Mississippi Baptists will continue to volunteer with Lakeshore Baptist Church in Cicero, NY, to complete the renovation of a permanent church building this summer.

HOUSE TOPS

As many natural disasters seem to continue coming, pray that people will see that man is not in control of this world, but God is. Pray that their hearts will be open to hear the truth and that God will place people in their path who can share the gospel with them.

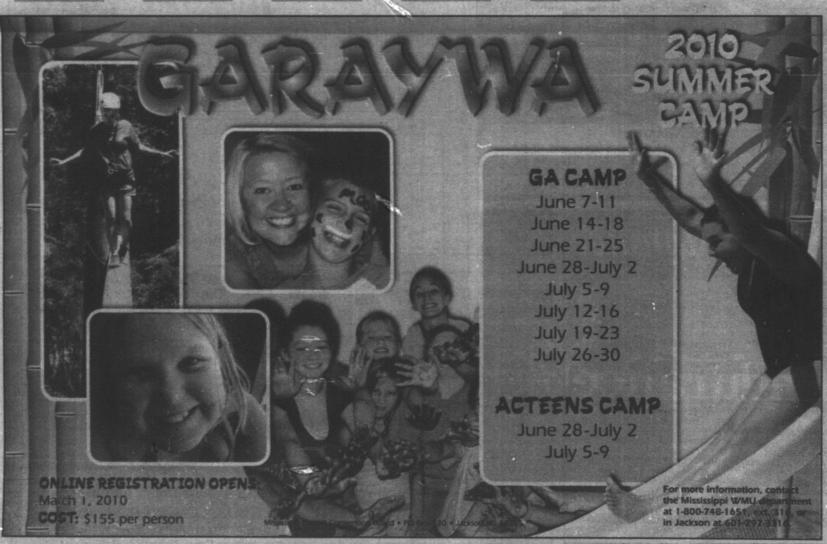
Pray for: (1) Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Florence (CM); (2) Pastor/Sunday School Director Conference, FBC, Starkville (SS). Pray for safety and good health for a team from FBC, McComb, as they travel to Lima, Peru, April 29-May 6. Pray for this team as they are a part of VBS, construction, door to door witnessing and preaching,

Pray for: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) R.T and J. and their family as they complete their stateside assignment and return to South Asia at the end of May for a new assignment. Pray for the many "churchgoers" in the USA who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Pray that God will convict their hearts of their lostness and show them that going to church is not what makes them a Christian.

Pray for new International Mission Board missionaries who will be appointed at FBC, Jackson, tonight. Pray for: [1] AMD/Spouse Spring Retreat, Emmanual BC, Grenada [MS]; [2] State Handbell Festival, FBC, Byram [CM]; [3] the Chinese and that God will use the recent terrible earthquake in China to draw the state ing people to himself.

Pray for: (1) Associational Missions Leadership Training & Annual Meeting, Garaywa: (2) Growing Churches, Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch (MS/CG). Pray for: (1) Bible Drill Selection Tournament, Crossgates BC, Brandon [D&FM]; [2] Praise God for over 220 Mississippi college students who were trained this month and are preparing for their upcoming summer missions assignments all over the world.

Pray for: [1] Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko [MM]; [2] the masses of teenagers growing up in homes withtut a godly father. Pray for God to bring male role models into their lives who can show them the secure love



www.mbcb.org

#### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE The Right Support

2 Corinthians 8:8-15: 9:6-11

By Marion D. Duncan

"The Grace of Giving" could be the sub-title of this lesson taken from Paul's teaching to the church at Corinth on the matter of giving. They had not given an offering to help meet the needs of the financially poor churches in Judea who needed assistance from the sister churches. The Corinthian churches. The Corintnian church was experiencing a low spiritual level, and, when a church is not spiritual, it is not generous. The Paul reminded them of the forgotten beating. tude given by our Lord: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

As an example of the "grace of giving," Paul used the poverty-stricken churches of Macedonia who had given, first, in spite of their circumstances. (8:1-2) Secondly, they gave enthusiastically because

of their great joy. They begged to be included in the giving. Paul said that they gave in a way none expected—they gave first themselves to the Lord. (8:3-4) The Lord desires none

this of us, our availability for His honor and service.

Then, they gave like Christ, giving themselves to God and to others. (8:5) If we give our-selves completely to God, we have little problem giving Him. our substance as well. The Corinthian Christians were preoccupied with their gifts of the Spirit and had neglected the Spirit and had neglected the graces of the spirit, one of which is giving. Ministry through our spiritual gifts is not a substitute for generous giving. There are pastors, mis-sionaries, and others who feel that their lives are spent in ministry therefore they are not ministry, therefore they are not obligated to give. The opposite is true. Those wonderfully



Duncan

Hazzard

gifted from God should desire to give even more to Him. Macedonian churches gave sacrifi-cially, who out of their deep poverty, abound-ed in liberality.

Paul gave advice the to Corinthians: There is a vast difference

between promise and performance. (8:10-12) Paul told them to stand behind their promise to give. Grace giving comes from a willing heart; it cannot be forced or coerced. But, willing does not take the place of doing. God sees the "heart" gift, not the "hand gift," not the portion, but the proportion. Consider the widow who gave the coin of little value, and was blessed because she gave literally all she had; she gave according to her means. (Luke 21:2-4) In 2 Corinthians 8:13-15,

Paul was not suggesting that the rich become poor so that the poor could become rich, but that there would be a sharing in time of need. The Gentiles were enriched spiritually by the Jews, so the Jews should be enriched materially by the Gentiles. The Gentile churches at this time were enjoying material wealth while the believers in Judea were suffering. Using the miracle of the manna as an illustration of the principle, Paul taught them that they would not be in need if they trusted in God and obeyed His Word.

These five encouragements related to giving are discussed in 2 Corinthians 9. (1) Your giving will "stir" or encourage others to give. (Hebrews 10:24) (2) Your giving will bless you. (Luke 6:38) In grace giving, receiving God's blessing is a fringe benefit. (3) Your giving will meet needs. (9:12) (4) Your giving will glo-rify God. (Matthew 5:16) In rity God. (Matthew 5:16) In giving through your church, the giver remains anonymous, and God receives the glory. (5) Your giving will unite God's people. (Galatians 3:28)

Paul did not enforce a standard of giving but had

dard of giving, but had already written in I Corinthians 16:2, "Let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him."

Grace giving is systematic, but it is not legalistic. but it is not (Warren Wiersbe) not legalistic.

Giving should be an act of faith. God's desire is for His people to give generously and joyfully so that His Will—that all people come to know Him-can be accomplished through our local churches and communities, in our state and nation, and to the ends of the earth. Giving was established in the Bible, and established in the bible, and tithing is the beginning point for believers in their stewardship of possessions. "Our motive for giving is God's spiritual blessing in our lives, but our measure for giving is God's material bless-(Wiersbe)

As Southern Baptists, we are blessed to have the Cooperative Program through which giving from cooperating churches sup-ports the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and state conventions. Each of these responds to meet human needs on a regular basis as well as in emergencies—in recent memory, Katrina, and cur-

rently in Haiti.

Duncan is a member of First Church, Macon.

#### EXPLORE THE BIBLE Why do you worship?

Exodus 25:1-31:18

By Shelby Hazzard

Affirming the Lord's Presence - Ex 25:8-9

Exodus 25:8 says "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them." The time had come for God to provide Israel with a place of worship, the Tabernacle. Moses entered the cloud and remained

with God forty days and nights to receive the covenant.

The Lord's Tabernacle speci-fications are found in Exodus 25-31 including the materials, furnishings, layout, structure, priesthood and supplies, designers, workers and Sabbath rest reminder. Sabbath rest reminder. Chapters 35-40 provide detail about the preparations for con-struction, work delegation and erection of the Tabernacle.

The Lord has desired worshippers since He created man. The Tabernacle would be one

step to a closer relation-ship with His people as they drew nearer to his presence. It gave them an

opportunity to make offerings, fellowship and wor-ship God together, which sounds like church!

Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see

the Day approaching."
Hearing the Lord's Message –
Ex 25:17-22

Ex 25:17-22

Exodus 25:22 says, "There above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands." If God had a place to dwell in, He would need a place to speak from and it would be called the "mercy of the Add of the Comment. seat" of the Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark and carrying poles were made of acacia wood

and the Ark was covered with pure gold, inside and out with molding around it. The top was a gold "atonement cover," with two gold cheru-bim (angels) facing each other, their wings extended toward one another

over the top of the Ark, and their faces turned down toward the cover.

This place was known as the "mercy seat," where the High Priest sprinkled the sacrificial lamb's blood on the Day of Atonement, "covering" or "wiping out" the sins of Israel, as Christ did once and for all on the cross

God does not leave us ignorant of His will; He has told us clearly what He expects and if we want His mercy and forgive-ness, we are to submit to His way not ours, therefore, "humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you" (James 1:21).

Giving the Lord Offerings —

Ex 29:38-42 Exodus 29:38, 41 says, "This

is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old...a pleasing aroma; an offering made to the Lord by fire." These daily sacrifices were a foreshowing of Christ's ministry, a daily atonement for the continuing sins of this people.

His people.

Today as ministers of the fices of giving, service and wor-ship, our whole burnt offerings, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. Paul helps us understand the aroma of the Christian's daily sacrifice, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 says, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in tri-umphal procession in Christ and through us spreads every-where the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the

fragrance of life.

Acknowledging the Lord's
Greatness – Ex 29:43-46
Exodus 29:42-45 says, "There
(Tent of Meeting) I will meet you
and speak to you; there also I will

meet with the Israelites, and the place will be consecrated by my glory ... then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God."

Christ understood His purpose as glorifying God, John 8:54 says, Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me." Paul also says in 1 Cor. Paul also says in 1 Cor 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Out of all the people on

earth, God's presence manifest-ed with Israel! God had consecrated, set apart and made holy, this place of sacrifice and burnt offering a great motivation for them to be faithful in obedience.

Today we should share that same motivation, as we eagerly meet to worship together to celebrate God's glory through Christ, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10).

Hazzard is minister of evangelism, First Church, Greenville.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD.
Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.
Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable.
Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples. All news-items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No land-scape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs are published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: ptistrecord@mbcb.org.

#### JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw



3. Fairview Church, Indianola

- Victory Church, Mathiston, is hosting The Nelons in concert Apr. 24, 7 p.m., with local soloists opening at 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be received.
- Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw, held their annual Easter egg hunt Mar. 27. Shown are the participants.
- The ladies of Fairview Church, Indianola, gathered items for care packages for fellow church members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan This was a specific package. Afghanistan. This was a special missions project adopt-ed by the WMU. Shown are the participants.
- Marvin Overstreet, retired chief investigator for the Mississippi Department of Corrections, was originated Corrections, was ordained to the gospel ministry recently at Calvary Chapel, Parchman. Overstreet is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and is enrolled in the Southern Seminary Extension. He has been called as pastor of Faith Church, Charleston. He and his wife Carrie live in Grenada with their son, Damion. Shown are Overstreet and Jim Overstreet and



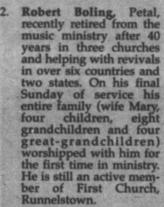
4. Overstreet and Harmon

#### COLLEGE NEWS

- The 2010 William Carey University student art exhibition will run through Apr. 30 at the Lucile Parker Art Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. Gallery hours are Mon. Fri., 1 4 p.m. and by appointment by calling (601) 318-6528.
- 2. The William Carey University Theatre will present "Tennessee Boarders," a collection of Tennessee Williams' one-act plays set in a boarding house April 22 through 24 at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for senior citizens and military and \$5 for students. Reservations can be made by calling (601) 318-6221. The box office is open daily from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

#### STAFF CHANGES





Flat Rock Church, Benton-Tippah Association, has called Gary Yates as pastor. He is shown with Anna Claire, Sam Parker, and Peyton Yates; Tracy Yates and Yates.

000 Visit us online at www.mbcb.org



2. The Boling family



3. The Yates

#### **O**BITUARY



Buel "Bill" Patton, Jr., 66, of the Tyro Community, went home to be with the Lord on March 11. Patton, who was the Pastor of Tyro Church, Senatobia for seven years, pastored churches throughout Mississippi, Alabama and Utah over the years. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and an active member of The Sonseekers Chapter of Christian Motorcyclists Association. Patton is survived by his wife, Linda Gibson Patton of Senatobia; his mother, Christine Patton of Senatobia; three daughters, Deena West (Chris) of Athens, Ala., Billie Little (Scott) of Hernando, Dawn Purvis (Arnold) of Enterprise; one son, Michael Spangler (Lori) of Olive Branch; one sister, Peggie Micomonaco of Whidbey Island, Wash.; one brother, Patrick Patton of Knoxville, Tenn.; 21 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Services were held at 2:30 on March 14th at Lifepoint Church in Senatobia. Burial followed at Tyro Church Cemetery. Ray-Nowell Funeral Home of Senatobia had charge of the arrangements.



no lext attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible

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### JUST FOR THE RECORD

- CORRECTION: Mt. Olivet Church, Forest, is hosting a concert featuring Mark Schultz and Point of Grace at the Temple Theater, Meridian, May 1, 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.itickets.com or by call-ing (601) 479-0069. Ticket
- prices are \$25 for artist circle which includes a meet and greet; \$20 for lower mezza-nine; and \$15 general admis-sion top balcony.
- Bethel Church, Lawrence County Association, ordained Matt Pradillo to
- the gospel ministry Apr. 7. Shown are pastor Michael Smith and Pradillo.
  - Algoma Church, Algoma, presented members perfect attendance with attendance pins. Shown are attendance pins. Shown are Janell Steward, 1 year; Bradley Owen, 5 years; Weezie Corder, 14 years; Landis Fair, 23 years; Yvonne French, 4 years; Sue Barlow, 26 years; Emaley Owen, 1 year; Angie Owen, 1 year; Angie Owen, 1 year; Teresa Arnold, 10 years; Hilda Smith, 13 years; and Jesse French, 5 years. Jesse French, 5 years.
  - Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, honored Bob Jones, his family, and church Main family recently upon Jones' completion of 40 years of ministry at the church. Jones was the minister of music before becoming the church's minister to senior adults. Shown is Jones with family and church members.
  - Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia, honored Milton Prescott Easter Sunday with a plaque designating him as an honorary deacon. He was ordained as a deacon in 1958 and served many years.
  - The children of Providence Church, Grenada County, presented The Easter Tree during the Mar. 28 worship service. Shown, front, are Emma Fleming, Catherine Pannell, Hannah Briscoe. Leah Briscoe, Sadie Rose Williams, and James Darren McRee. Second row, Reed
  - Cleary Church, Florence, is having a church-wide rummage sale May 1 at 6:30 a.m. Food, including breakfast, catfish and hamburger plates, and a bake sale, will be available all day.
  - Grove Church, Hattiesburg, a church plant, gave out 3000 gospel door hangers for the GPS effort and had 93 in attendance their highest since the church's launch for their Easter service.
    - First Church, Kosciusko, named the main building that houses Love Mission on Aponaug Road the Abb Henry building in a dedication ceremony Mar. 28. The mission began as an apartment ministry but evolved into a ministry to children and youth from all over Kosciusko. The ministry began under the leadership of Henry, Attending the dedication were church members, Love Mission workers, former workers, friends, members of Henry's and Rudy family,

- Sandifer, the first child 11. Holcomb to ever attend in 1994.
- 10. Park Haven Church, Laurel, is hosting a gospel sing May 1, 6 p.m., featuring Stubborn Love. A love offering will be received.
- Church Holcomb Church, Holcomb, will have an Old Fashion Day May 2, 11 a.m., with the group, Promised, providing the program, fol-lowed by dinner on the grounds. A love offering will be received.



6. Providence Church, Grenada County



3. Algoma Church, Algoma

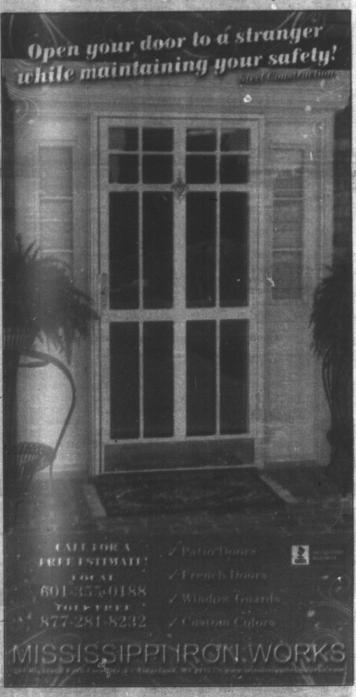


4. Jones recognition



5. Prescott





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